



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 896**

January Session, 2009

Substitute House Bill No. 6415

*House of Representatives, May 4, 2009*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. GERAGOSIAN of the 25th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO PLACE ABUSED  
AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF FAMILIES RATHER  
THAN INSTITUTIONS.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Commissioner of Children  
2       and Families shall establish, within existing budgetary resources, a  
3       pilot program to (1) place children, who are in the custody or care of  
4       the commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary custody or an  
5       order of commitment, in a family setting with qualified foster parents  
6       or relative caregivers rather than in an institutional or congregate  
7       facility, such as a group home, hospital, state institution, receiving  
8       home, custodial institution or other residential treatment facility, and  
9       (2) transfer such children currently living in such an institutional or  
10      congregate facility to a family setting.
- 11      (b) The commissioner shall select children for the pilot program to

12 maximize cost savings to the state but shall ensure that the placement  
13 is in the child's best interest.

14 (c) Not later than October 1, 2010, the commissioner shall report, in  
15 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint  
16 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of  
17 matters relating to appropriations and the select committee of the  
18 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children  
19 concerning the results of the pilot program. The report shall include:  
20 (1) The number and ages of the children served in the pilot program;  
21 (2) the dates each child participated in the pilot program; (3) for each  
22 child transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family  
23 setting, the period of time each child lived in such a facility; (4) the  
24 estimated cost to the state for each child if the child had been placed,  
25 or remained, in an institutional or congregate facility and a brief  
26 explanation of the method for calculating the estimates; (5) the cost for  
27 services associated with the placement of each child in a family setting;  
28 and (6) for each child transferred from an institutional or congregate  
29 facility to a family setting, a brief statement comparing the child's well-  
30 being in the institutional or congregate facility with the child's well-  
31 being in the family setting.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2009	New section
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**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>	<b>FY 11 \$</b>
Children & Families, Dept.	GF - Uncertain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

#### **Municipal Impact:**

<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>FY 10 \$</b>	<b>FY 11 \$</b>
Various Municipalities	Uncertain	See Below	See Below

### **Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to implement a pilot program that is intended to move children from institutional or congregate settings, or prevent their placement in the same, by utilizing family settings instead. The pilot program is to be established within existing budgetary resources.

The fiscal impact of the pilot program cannot be determined in advance. Factors affecting the ultimate impact would include: The number of participants selected; the cost of the congregate setting from which each child is diverted; expenses associated with meeting each child's needs in a family setting, which may require the expansion of existing state-funded community-based services or the development of new community-based services; and the extent to which each child is successfully maintained in the family setting. Federal financial participation would also be impacted as the value or type of services offered to participants is altered, affecting reimbursements under the Medicaid or Title IV-E programs.

Various local education authorities (LEAs) may also be impacted to the extent that costs of educating participant children for whom there

is a nexus for educational purposes may vary depending upon the child's residence.

The requirement that the pilot program be developed within existing budgetary resources may result in one of four outcomes: (1) DCF will proceed with the program, and will require a deficiency appropriation; (2) DCF will delay the implementation of the program pending the approval of additional appropriations to meet this mandate in future fiscal years; (3) DCF will shift resources from other department priorities, thereby impacting existing departmental programs; or (4) DCF will not implement the pilot program. No funding specific to a pilot program to divert children from congregate care settings has been included within sHB 6365, the FY 10-11 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee and there are no known non-state resources available for this purpose.

It is anticipated that the department will be able to submit the required report by 10/1/10 within its normally budgeted resources.

### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 6415*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE  
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RATHER THAN INSTITUTIONS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill directs the Department of Children and Families (DCF) commissioner, within existing budgetary resources, to establish a pilot program to (1) place children in family settings rather than institutional or congregate facilities and (2) transfer children already in these facilities into family settings. It requires the commissioner to report on the pilot program's results to the Appropriations and Children's committees by October 1, 2010. The bill does not specify how many children the pilot program must serve.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2009

**PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**

The bill requires the DCF commissioner to establish a pilot program to (1) place children in a family setting with qualified foster parents or relative caregivers instead of in an institutional or congregate facility and (2) transfer children currently in these facilities into a family setting. Under the bill, an institutional or congregate facility includes a group home, hospital, state institution, receiving home, custodial institution, or other residential treatment facility.

The pilot program covers children in DCF custody or care pursuant to a temporary custody order or commitment order. When selecting participants, the commissioner must maximize cost savings while ensuring that the placement is in the child's best interest.

**REPORT**

The report must include:

1. the number, ages, and participation dates of the pilot program participants;
2. for children transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family setting, the period of time each child lived in such a facility;
3. the estimated state cost for each child if the child had been placed or remained in an institutional or congregate facility and a brief explanation of how these estimates were calculated;
4. service costs associated with placing each child in a family setting; and
5. for each child transferred from an institutional or congregate facility to a family setting, a brief statement comparing the child's well-being in the facility to the family setting.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Legislative History***

The House referred the bill (File 59) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that requires the DCF commissioner to establish the pilot program within existing budgetary resources.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 15      Nay 3      (02/26/2009)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 52      Nay 3      (04/23/2009)